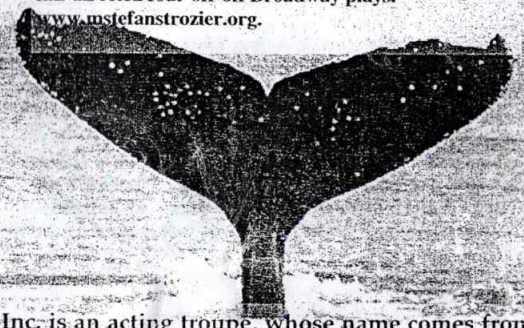
LA MUSE VENALE ACTING TROUPE

Mike Strozier (Director) is the president and board chairman of LMV. He is a playwright and writer and has directed four off-off Broadway plays. www.mstefanstrozier.org.



La Muse Venale, Inc. is an acting troupe, whose name comes from a poem by French poet Charles Baudelaire. The English translation of the title of his poem is "The Muse for Hire," which encapsulates our troupe's spirit, perfectly, with, perhaps, a smidgen of irony and mockery of the art world's present commercialism.

We develop our own plays, as a group, from start to finish. Part of our mission is to, "Promote theater to people who do not normally experience it." We perform in homeless shelters and parks, as well as theaters.

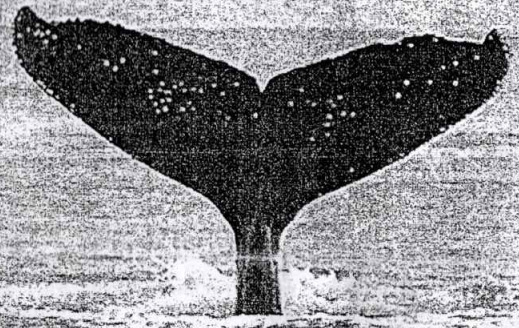
We are always seeking new members: actors, directors, playwrights, technicians, volunteers. We are devoted to developing our own artistic style and standard. We are experimental, provocative, diverse; yet, traditional and well-grounded in formalism.

lamusevenale@gmail.com
La Muse Venale, Inc.
C/O Where Eagles Dare Theater
347 West 36th Street #1204
New York, NY 10018

LA MUSE VENALE ACTING TROUPE
(WWW.LAMUSEVENALE.ORG)
PRESENTS

THE WHALES

by M. Stefan Strozier



LA MUSE * VENALE *

CAST OF "THE WHALES"

Naomi Austin

Naomi is thrilled to be choreographing *The Whales*. She was last seen in Marrakech: Inside the Magic Circle with Anahid Sofian. She has danced in Off and Off Off Broadway theaters and has been seen on Fox 5's Good Day NY. She has choreographed for the Gilgamesh Theater Group, Dixon Place, and was a guest teacher and choreographer at one of Manhattan's prominent private schools. She is thankful to so many for their support and love. Dance like no one's watching!!!

Ben Bailey first came to New York in the summer of 2001 to attend the American Musical and Dramatic Academy. Since graduating in the fall of 2002, he has been featured in several over the top theatre comedies such as: *Casting Call: Alien Invasion*, Fahrenheit 451, and *the Christopher Durang Showcase*. His feature films include: *Too Far Gone* and *Acid Rain*. His physical and vocal comedic ability and timing make him an asset to any production he has ever been involved in. He does many impersonations of well known celebrities and cartoon characters. He also likes to take long walks on the beaches with beautiful women.

Ben Bailey

Susan Bucci

Susan has been working in theater on the East and West coasts for over thirty years. She has performed with Spotlight On Productions in roles as varied as The Wicked Witch in *The Wizard of Oz*, Mother Nature, a Hooters waitress, and a three-breasted housekeeper. She has also appeared in *The Vagina Monologues*. TV and film: "Law and Order", "The Sopranos", Maid in Manhattan", and the upcoming indie film "A Crime."

Denise originates from the heartbeat of Brooklyn, New York. She received her theatrical training from the renowned Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute located in NYC, under the training of Irma Sandrey. Her presence has graced the stage in a variety of rich roles in Off-Off Broadway theatre productions. Her stage credits have included *The Colored Museum*, *His, Hers and Ours* (a comedy set in the 40's), *The Duchess of The Dakota*, *The Decision*, and the political drama *The Black Panther Women*. Her film works include independent films, "The Bit-Part Players," "Hide," and "Taxi Cab Confessions." Denise extends her gratitude to all audience members who take part in this wonderful exchange of ideas and energy. To my family, friends and foes, I give my love because my life has indeed been enriched by all of you. Especially to you, Ma.

Denise Collins

CAST OF "THE WHALES"

Deanna Foote is an actor in New York City.

Deanna Foote

Veronica Heffron

This is Veronica's first performance with La Muse Venale and she is ELATED to finally be working with M. Strozier and such a talented cast! She would like to invite you to keep your minds open, not only within this show, but in your every day living. Acceptance for what is different, whether it be race, political opinions, sexual orientation, and / or one's own view of self, is a true gift! www.veronicaheffron.com

LEBROZ James, AKA The BROOKLYN BEAR, was born and raised in Brooklyn New York. He is a rapper turned Actor turned Producer turned ?. His Tenacious Goal is the Dominating of Entertainment. Peace L.J. http://www.lebroz.com/

Lebroz James

Don Jeanes

Don hails from Houston, Texas. He relocated to New York in 2004 and in addition to his work in film, appeared previously this year as Seth in "Pulling Teeth" at the American Place Theater. Now, Don crosses Eighth Avenue for your viewing pleasure in *The Whales*.

CAST OF "THE WHALES"

Mark has performed in over 80 stage productions; he recently performed in La Muse Venale's production of *Losin' Mannie.* His regional credits include *Angels in America* (Prior Walter), *Waiting for Godot* (Estragon), *True West* (Austin), *Orestes* (Orestes), *The Compleat Wrks of Wilm Shskpr (Abridged)*(Everyone), *The Dumb Waiter* (Gus), *Hedda Gabler* (Eilert Lovborg) and *Macbeth* (Malcolm). He has performed in New York City, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Illinois, Utah and Poland. He starred in the docudrama *Lost Forever with Everett Ruess* as both the title character and himself, will be seen as Nick in Eric Mandelbaum's upcoming film *Uncertain Terms*, and is shooting and editing the documentary film *Vinnie's Rock n' Roll Boneyard* for director Lisamarie Costabile.

Mark Larson

Tristan Lawrence

Tristan grew up the Bronx, NY idolizing Bronx native, Al Pacino. He fell in love with acting as a young boy when he saw *Les Miserables* on Broadway. He studied acting (Modern British Drama & International Film) at Oxford University. Upon returning to NY, Tristan commenced his studies with the late Gene Frankel at The Gene Frankel theater on Bond Street and has since studied with some very good acting coaches incorporating a variety of techniques into his own style. Tristan's biggest inspiration is Denzel Washington (Fellow Fordham alumnus) and his biggest success is working with the "less fortunate" or troubled teens whenever possible.

Griselda is the stage manager for *Only His Knees* and *Losin' Mannie*, as well as other productions of La Muse Venale. She is currently in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Bay Shore, at the Authors Playhouse. She is playing two roles, Mustardseed and Snug (Lion). She has just begun her journey as an actress and is excited to get involved in theatre whatever way she can.

Griselda Lazo

CAST OF "THE WHALES"

Brenna (Dionysus) is making her NYC stage debut with The Whales. After getting a BS in theatre, she moved here to pursue a life in this crazy, fantastic industry. She has played many challenging roles including Vivian Bearing in *Wit* and Li'l Bit in *How I Learned to Drive;* this is her first hermaphroditic God(ess). She has been performing since the day she was born and hopes to some day get paid for it. Brenna would like to thank her parents and Frank for their continued support and enthusiasm. "This life is more than just a read-through..." ~Red Hot Chili Peppers

Brenna McGuire

Sean Mik'ael

Sean has been acting since age 15. He graduated from Fork Union Miltary Academy in Virginia. Sean began his first real and semi professional acting in college under Cindy Rosental and Jeff Ramano. He also plays football for Hofstra university. He is a theatre and film major at Hofstra. He would like to thank God for his gifts and his mom and grandmom for there love and support. He graduates from Hofstra next year and plans to go for his career in acting or film producing and attend UCLA grad school.

Doua has been a local Hmong actor in the Twin City for many years. At age 16, he got his first film role playing Ming, a mid 20s sensitive man, in the film "Pals," directed by Neil Orman. After all the work hours and last year in high school, Moua, a dedicated actor, still had time to shoot "Flickers", playing Samuel. He is now attending the Marymount Manhattan College in New York, in pursuing Communication and Psychology. In late summer, Moua leads the musical, *Shanghai Extravaganza.* He is also premiering in Anton Chekhov's play, "The Seagull", as Ilya on Jan 28th.

Doua Moua

Grant Peters

Grant has always had a passion for performance. At a very young age, he was indoctrinated with the theatre. His parents spent most of his childhood as members of the Hot Tomales Theatre Company. Grant spent many hours at rehearsals assisting actors, costume and prop managers and the director with lines and preparation. As soon as Grant was old enough, he began performing school plays and summer stock theatre until graduating from high school. During this time Grant was privately tutored by acting coaches Gene Pitak and Joe Marino Capodicce. He also attended San Francisco's ACT musical theatre department. Since school, Grant has spent some time in a hip-hop rock fusion band as its front man and performed in such plays as *The Curse of the Starving Class* (Sam Shepard), *The Fairy Queen* (Henry Purcell), *You Can't Take It With You* (Moss Hart, George S. Kaufman), and *The Glass Menagerie* (Tennessee Williams).

CAST OF "THE WHALES"

Jordan Peters

Jordan was born and raised in Pt. Reyes, CA, where he started acting at age 10. His father was a musician, who played at the old Improv, his mother was an actress, and Jordan was schooled in both arts. His first role was Nick Burns in *A Thousand Clowns* (Herb Gardner). He performed alongside his mother, a brilliant actress, and learned scene study, improv and character work with the Hot Tomales Theatre Company. Later he appeared in *Guys & Dolls* (Joseph L. Mankiewicz), *As You Like It* (William Shakespeare), *Life & Limb* (Keith Reddin), and *The Visit* (Friedrich Durrenmatt). When he moved to "the greatest city in the world" in 1999, he grew

Mark is from the Bronx, New York. He always was interested in all forms of entertainment. He has been involved in various creative ventures that involve singing, rapping, poetry, dancing, and modeling. Mark became a NYC Board of Education gym teacher for 4 years and a Drama teacher for one. Because of the demands of being a teacher and working on a Masters in Education, Mark curtailed his involvement in entertainment. However, because of his love of entertainment, while finishing his Master's degree in Education, he enrolled in an MBA Media Management program to become knowledgeable on the business as well as the creative side of entertainment. Mark completed his Master's degree in Education while teaching and working on his MBA in media management. Mark resigned from teaching last June to pursue acting full-time. Mark recently earned his MBA in Media Management in December 2005.

Mark Phillips

Ann Pielli

Ann is having a great time playing these characters in such an imaginative and funny show. This is her second opportunity to play more than one character in a comedy. She had the good fortune of being Janie, Barbara, and the helicopter pilot in *Wonder of the World* with the Phoenix Players. Other roles include Lady Lettice in the *Beard of Avon* at Queens Theatre in the Park and Mrs. Frank in *The Diary of Anne Frank* with the T.E.S.T. Theater Company. As always, Ann would like to thank her amazingly supportive family and friends for cheering her on and a special thanks to Joe for being wonderful. And finally thanks to James Hong for the inspiration.

LA MUSE VENALE ACTING TROUPE

CAST OF "THE WHALES"

Holly Vanesse

Holly has been acting around Boston and the New England area for many years. She recently moved to New York City. She has performed many roles, from comedy to Shakespeare. She performed in the premiere of *The Laramie Project* with Boston Theatre Works, which went on to win an Elliot Norton Award for "Best Production by a Fringe Company." The show was invited to perform again by Israel Horowitz at his theater "The Gloucester Stage Company." She performed at The American Repertory Theater, under the direction of Robert Woodruff in *Highway Ulysses*.

Rich is proud to be joining La Muse Venale Acting Troupe for this production. Recent NYC stage credits include *Missing Something*, *Smithfield & Cox* (both at the Sande Shurin), *Lend Me a Tenor* (Sts Simon & Jude Players) and *Abnormal Stew* (Baby Hippopotamus Productions). Regional credits include the title roles in *Coriolanus* and *Hamlet* with the Hudson Shakespeare Company as well as roles in *Henry V*, *Run For Your Wife*, *Othello* and *Antony & Cleopatra*. Recent television and film credits include *The New Detectives*, *Forensic Files*, *Sex and the CIty*, the shorts *Kookies* and *Holy Sh*** and the upcoming feature *Six*. It's all about the Baby Hippopotamus!

Rich Warren

CREW LISTINGS

Joshua Blankman (Assistant Director) is from Columbia, MD. He moved up to NYC to go to the Art Institute two years ago and The Whales is his first experience with a professional theatre company.

Alan Kanevsky (Dramaturge) is the vice president/CFO and board member of LMV. He is a playwright and director who has been involved in off–off-Broadway theatre.

David Segretto is a graduate of Albright College in Reading, PA. He has worked as an AD with director Jeffrey Lentz on original and scripted productions and also directed three Samuel Beckett plays.

Leck Dzie (Sound Engineer) has created sound for LMV productions: *Gun, Shackles & Winter Coats*, *Losin' Manny*, and *The Whales*. He also creates themes for holidays (Halloween, Christmas, etc.).

Leck Dzie and Rich Warren—Sound
Alan Kanevsky—Dramaturge
Director—Mike Strozier
Stage Manager—Grizelda Lazo
Assistant Director—Joshua Blankman\
Lighting—Joshua Blankman
Props Supervisor—Veronica Heffron